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THE MAGIC LANTERN GAZETTE

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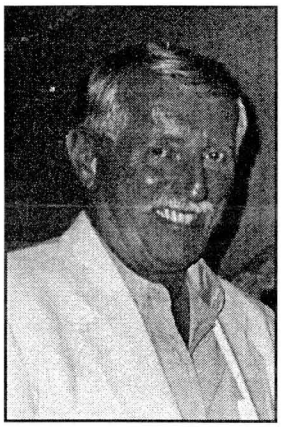
FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

From Ralph Shape

This year has flown by like none other. The years seem to be getting shorter; or is that a sign of aging? This has been an eventful and stressful year for us all. The tragedy of September 11 has affected all our lives. Our thoughts and prayers are with those who lost loved ones or were injured in New York and Washington, D.C. And our prayers go with our military who are working to end this insanity and return some stability to the world.



The world of magic lantern does go on. The Magic Lantern Society on the other side of the ocean hosted their 6th convention in Birmingham, England in April. Terry Borton continues to enthrall audiences throughout the country with his Magic Lantern Theater performances. Henry Clark should be presenting his annual Christmas performances at the Bethpage Village Theater on Long Island as well as selling many strange things on eBay. (Still waiting for the garden shears to appear.) Homer Peabody's tennis game has slowed down but his singing has improved. Jack Judson expands his collection, increases our knowledge of magic lanterns through his research and is the society's biggest promoter. Tom Rall appeared on television promoting the flea market idea. (Many great comments about his hat.) Mervin Heard continues to teach about the magic lantern through his performances in England. The northwest group meets four times a year for food, fun, and shows. Bob Bishop published a book and prepares to do another, "Last Magic Lantern Show." The only pause the Hall's have in their cross-country sell-a-thon is to produce and mail to you this tremendous publication which entertains and educates us all. We do go on. Not the same, but, we do go on. Those of us in Seattle realized the importance of allowing the Yankees to win the baseball playoffs; but just wait until next year.

As we did last year, this winter issue of the *Gazette* incorporates a copy of a previous publication. This not only gives the members a valuable copy, but also give our editors a needed respite from the rigors of a Christmas time publication.

Included with this letter is the form for the annual chore of dues renewal. Please make a concerted effort to promptly return this form along with the dues. This will make the work of our secretary/treasurer much easier. (Note that the dues were raised last year to $25.00.)

INSIDE

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Another chore which must be undertaken is the election of officers. The bylaws state that officers shall be elected by mail ballot and shall serve for two years. The election must be accomplished by the time of our convention in June 2002. Please include any nominees at the bottom of your renewal form and those will be forwarded to Homer for ballot preparation.

And finally, in the midst of another holiday season may we all work towards a world where everyone can live without fear, without prejudice and without violence. To all our members I wish a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

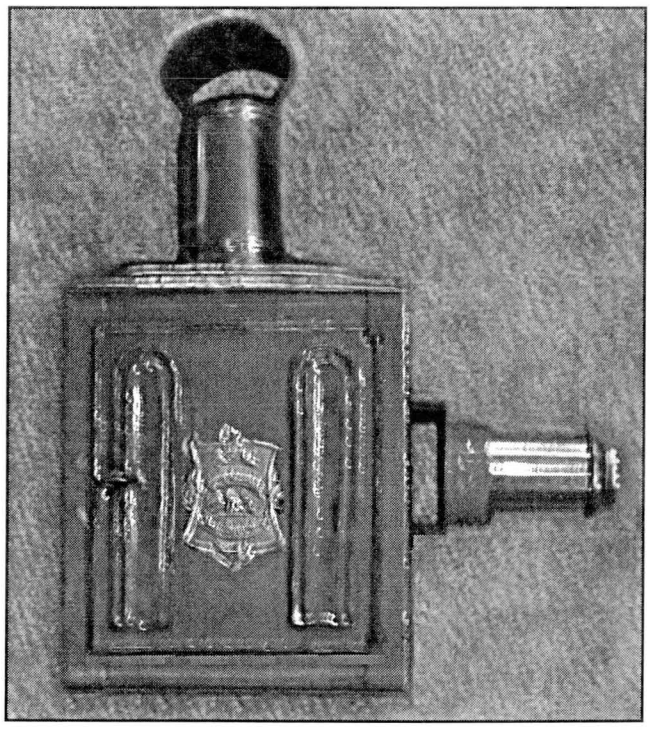
May your lantern shine brightly throughout the new year and may all your slides be right side up.

A TALE OF TWO LANTERNS

By Paul Tobin

"Jung Amerika" (Hrabalek page 125) is a very desirable toy lantern that many of us have in our collection. Last year (2000) in Bievre, France, however, I came across a red toy lantern with a similar name. The lantern appears of French design, and the medallion on the door is "Joung Amerika," not "Jung Amerika," with the words "Magic Lantern" underneath, thus suggesting it was made for the USA market to cash in on the popularity of the Hersteller 1890 German made lantern! Of course, the lantern could easily be for the Dutch trade, hence the spelling, but why would it also have the English "Magic Lantern?" The design of the "Joung" lantern resembles the French Lapierre "medallion" but no searching has turned up any further identification beyond that. Similarly, the box this little red lantern came in has a decal very similar to that used by Jean Schoenner who carefully patented their lanterns. However, when one looks closely, it also lacks certain features such as the "Made in Germany" words on the Schoenner box. Of course, it is possible that the box is not the one that the lantern originally was shipped in.

Could it be that the manufacturer was someone who dropped out of his German class too soon because he was bent on being an entrepreneur?! Could it be that this is a Frankreich fraud?



LONG TIME MEMBER, ALAN KATTELLE, PUBLISHES BOOK

The following review is from the March 2001 *Library Journal*

Kattelle, Alan D. *Home Movies: A History of the American Industry, 1897-1979*
In this unique book, which delves into the origins of cinematography, Kattelle writes about film's earliest inventions, such as the magic lantern, camera obscura, and mutoscopes, and explains in detail how they worked and who their inventors were. The competitiveness of Pathé, the Lumiére brothers, Daguerre, Edison, Eastman, and other contributors to the evolution of motion pictures is fascinating. The book features chapters on amateur equipment, organizations, and collecting, and two sections are devoted to the rise of the Eastman Kodak Company. Amateur films are discussed at length, including the famous Zapruder film of the Kennedy assassination. Numerous illustrations and photographs enhance the text, while extensive appendixes cover amateur films, equipment charts, manufacturers, and much more. Readers who are unfamiliar with the subject will gain a wealth of knowledge. An excellent resource for students, this is highly recommended for most libraries. Rosalind Dayen, Broward Cty. South Regional Lib., Fort Lauderdale, FL

Book can be ordered from Enfield Distribution Co., P.O. Box 699, Enfield, NH 03748. E-mail: enfield@connriver.net Cost $49.95 plus $5 shipping and handling. Besides the name of the book and author, you will need this identification number: ISBN 0-9654497-8-5. Credit cards are accepted.

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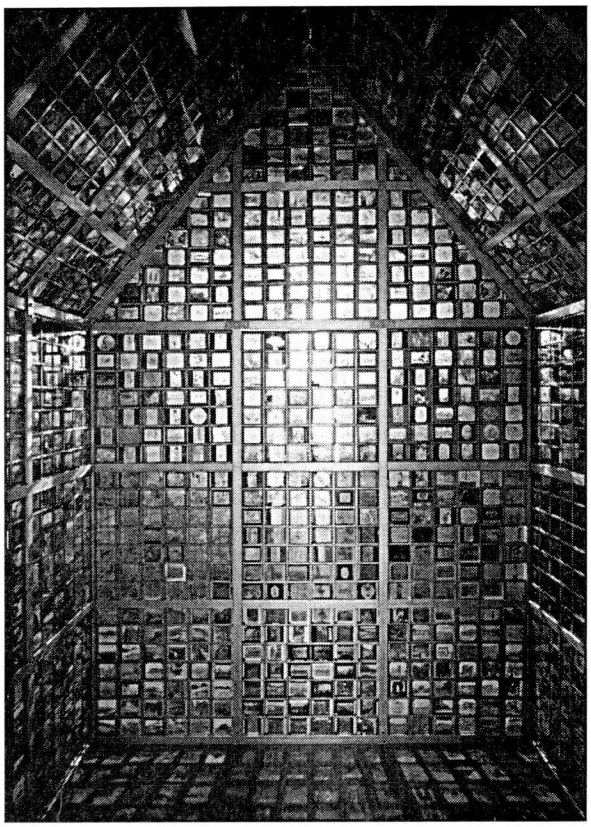
LANTERN SLIDE HOUSE CROSSES OCEAN

By Steve Tobin



I was contacted this summer by the independent Italian curator Andrea Pagnes to send over the "glass lantern house" to a show at the Marco Polo Gallery in Murano in association with the famous "Venice Biennale" art exhibition which shows contemporary art from around the world. The gallery paid the FedEx shipping of the 11 foot high 1,500 pound "glass lantern house" (in five crates) and the airfare to go set it up. It was shipped from Pennsylvania on a Thursday for Monday delivery in Venice. On the way to the airport on Tuesday I found out that it was still in Tennessee. I flew to Venice fully expecting it to arrive the same day. The show was to open on Friday at 7:30 p.m. At 2:30 p.m. on Friday the piece finally arrived . . . but at least not a single slide was damaged! We had never set it up in less than two days. My assistant and I set it up in four hours with the tuxedoed crowd watching the drama unfold. The most popular slides were WWII aircraft identification slides, some children's drawings, and colored butterfly photos. The medical x-ray slides were also a hit. The most common comment was that it felt like the old churches in Venice. I took that as a compliment. It was a whopping success and there is the possibility of the piece being purchased by the owner of the gallery and donated to the glass museum in Murano! I will report on that and when the next "lantern house" will be finished and on display in the United States.

I want to thank everyone who has provided slides for this project so far and the people who have taken the time to educate me about these wonderful slides. Ciao!

MAGIC LANTER SOCIETY MINUTES OF THE NORTHWEST CORNER

May 20, 2001

Present for the meeting at Bob and Carm Bishop's home were John and Betty Potter, Ralph and Judie Shape, Bob and Sue Hall, Mike and Sharon Koch, Bob Doran, Ron Easterday, Larry Cedarblom, and our newest members, Milt Rathbun and Sheryl Gentle.

After a great lunch, Ralph brought the meeting to order at 12:20 p.m. Minutes of the January meeting and treasurer's report were given.

Ralph reported on the British convention held in April in Birmingham. There was an ample amount of time to buy sale items and auction was good. Mervyn Heard used stage smoke for his phantasmagoria program—very impressive. The Lord Mayor of Birmingham attended the banquet in the Town Council Building, which was a beautiful setting for the occasion. The society charges 12.5% for auction items. There were 179 people in attendance. Sue added that Ralph made a very good speech representing our society.

Larry was in charge of our table at the Camera Show, also in April. Thanks also goes to Ron, John and Betty, and Bob Doran, who helped during the day. Milt Rathbun stopped by and was so impressed, he joined our illustrious group!

Bob Hall reported that Ira Franklin is recovering from pneumonia. He found a Bantum lantern super sport, electric, and wants to know more about it. Larry will call Ira.

Correspondence:

Sue received a letter from Dick Wheeler, who is the sole caretaker for his wife. He has no contact with other collectors. He reports that he's in good health. Also, letters from David and Leslie Evans, who wrote a very amusing letter regarding a purchase they made from Henry Clark. It seems they bought a huge amount of corrugated cardboard which Henry sandwiched between some wooden slides!

Jack Judson wrote a very informative copyrighted article answering the question, "What are Magic Lanterns?" We are happy to hear that he received some good results from recent medical tests.

Sue also reported that Erkki Huhtamo had written an article for the British Society newsletter about his visit to Jack's Magic Lantern Castle, and that Erkki has quite a few ideas for *Gazette* articles.

continued page 4

Minutes May 20 continued

Ron mentioned the Magic Lantern Chat Room apparently created on the Internet by Dick Wood in February. Sue's going to ask Dick to write an article for the *Gazette.*

Bob Bishop read the latest correspondence from the Pownell Soceity. There will be another version to Dick Widdington's "The Revenge." This society is an outgrowth of the Pownell Opera Society.

Miscellaneous:
Ralph said DicK Moore wants a wooden bi-unial. Ed Lennert needs to set a date for our Rochester, New York 2002 convention. Some dates in June were discussed. (The date has been set for June 28-30, 2002. See last month's *Gazette* or email elennert@aol.com for more information.)

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

The Kochs and Ron reprised their program from the Hollywood convention. Bob Hall and Ralph showed some excellent slides, John presented some colorful Civil War slides, and Bob Bishop gave us a preview of a show he was presenting the following week. It was an entertaining time and the sing-a-long was fun!

MAGIC LANTERN SOCIETY MINUTES OF THE NORWEST CORNER

August 12, 2001

Present at the Shape's home were: Milt Rathbun and Sheryl Gentle, Sharon Koch, Larry Cederblom, Bob and Sue Hall, David and Michael Evans, and their guest, William (from England), Ira and Beverly Franklin, and Alice Koch.

After a wonderful potluck lunch, President Ralph brought the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. He brought up the question about our society having tax deferred status. Sharon will check with the state to determine.

Sue stated that the Fall 2001 *Gazette* is just about ready to go to Larry and the printers.

Ralph showed the cover of Bob Bishop's book, "The Magic of the Lantern, According to The Old Projectionist," stating that Bob is pleased with most of it, except for a few publishing errors.

Sue received a photo of the Glass House, built by Steve Tobin. It measures 6 x 8 feet, and is composed entirely of glass slides. He seems very sensitive to the concerns of society collectors. He has collected 20,000 slides, and wants to have 100,000 to build another, larger house. It was mentioned that perhaps he could bring one of the house to the convention in Rochester.

Ed Lennert has an article in the *Gazette* concerning the convention June 28-30. A packet of tourist information was passed around. Plans are underway for the banquet to be held on an Erie Canal barge.

Sheryl shared their experience as novices to Magic Lanterns and their search for slides on eBay. Milt added that it takes awhile to "get educated."

Larry brought some Lexon that is great material to use for backlit display and has written an article for the *Gazette.*

Ira Franklin talked about the Incurable Collector, a TV program on A & E, an interesting show on various collections. An hour worth watching.

Alice shared a story about member Al Alarcon, who is a relative of Alice's friend. He bought a Magic Lantern, and told Virginia, who told him that her friends had started The Magic Lantern Society, which he promptly joined!

Bob Hall participated in a telephone interview with a radio station from the midwest, answering question about magic lanterns, but hasn't heard a word from them since.

Sue reported that Blanche Owens is having medical problems and has decided to sell her slides. Sue also shared a book, "Beginners Guide to Photography."

David Evans and family would like to relocate to the West Coast, probably British Columbia, Canada, and set up a museum. He is hoping to be able to attend our meetings once that is accomplished. It would be great to have them here.

Ralph reported that Jack Judson has just purchased his third American triunial. Congratulations, Jack!

Brian Parks is selling his collection.

Ed Lennert is looking for people to give shows at the convention, according to Ralph, who has also been in communication with Jack Judson about our web site and about getting convention information on it.

Next meeting is scheduled for November 4th at Marvin Nauman's in Gig Harbor, with Sharon and Mike Koch's as alternative location.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m. and we were then entertained by our lanternists.

CORRECTION CORNER

Last issue's *Gazette*, Steve Tobin's article on his glass slide house: "mezo house" should have read "Metzo house" and Steve is seeking glass slides that do not need to be prestine—fading, water damage, or cover slide cracks are okay. Contact him at steve@stevetobin.com or 2100 Chestnet Rd., Coopersburg, PA 18036.

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